

Message Text

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17

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 COA-01 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06

RSC-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-01

AID-05 CEQ-01 COME-00 EB-04 EPA-01 IO-04 NSF-01

SCI-02 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CEA-01 AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 151530Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6413

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS UNILATERAL CLAIMS

REF: STATE 223410

SUMMARY: AS NOTED IN LAGOS 8356, EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION
THWJ FMG CONTEMPLATING EXTENSION OF JURISDICTIONAL CLAIMS
OVER OCEAN AREAS DURING COURSE OF LOS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY

1. DOUBT WHEUXTHER FMG WILL SEEK EXTENSION OF ITS JURISDICTION
UNTIL COMPLETION LOS CONFERENCE SINCE IT WOULD PROBABLY
PREFER TO SEE WHAT FINAL OUTCOME WILL BE BEFORE TAKING ANY
SUCH ACTION. AT MOMENT IT WOULD SEEM THAT FMG REASONABLY
CONTENT WITH WAY CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON ECONOMIC
ZONE, TERRITORIAL SEA, CONTIGUOUS FISHING, ETC.

2. FMG, HOWEVER, IS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS CONTROL OVER
MINERAL RESOURCES AND ITS FISHERIES. IN ADDITION THERE HAS
BEEN SOME TALK ABOUT NEED TO PROTECT HIGERIAN COASTS AND
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CONSEQUENTLY THERE MAY BE SOME ELEMENTS WITHIN GOVERNMENT

PUSHING FOR EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA BUT NO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UTTERANCES OR HINTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW. EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT IF ANY JURISDICTIONAL EXTENSION WERE TO TAKE PLACE IT WOULD BE BASED ON FOREMENTIONED REASONS AS WELL AS ON ANY UNILATERAL ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER STATES AND MORE PARTICULARLY BY US (READ MAGNUSON BILL). ANY OAU DECISION WOULD ALSO BE ANOTHER FACTOR IN EQUATION.

3. AS VIEWED FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DELAY ANY UNILATERAL ACTION IF FMG MAKES DECISION TO ACT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM THAT BEST MEANS FOR FORESTALLING ANY ACTION WOULD BE TO APPROACH GOVERNMENT BEFORE DECISION MADE AND ON BASIS OF CONTINUED EXCHANGE ON LOS MATTERS WITH VIEW OF POINTING OUT FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN TRAIN, THAT THERE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE MULTILATERAL SETTLEMENT OF ISSUE RATHER THAN PIECE-MEAL APPROACH WHICH ULTIMATELY WOULD BENEFIT NO ONE.
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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